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ORIGIN PRM-10

INFO LOG-00 AF-01 OASY-00 EAP-01 EUR-01 OIGO-01 TEDE-00  
IO-16 ADS-00 OIC-02 SR-00 SS-00 FMP-00 DRL-09  
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IO/UNP: GHSTANTON (INFO)

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY

USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KAMPALA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KIGALI PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

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AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS STATE 328504

GENEVA FOR RMA ROME FOR FODAG

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: PREF RW BY TZ CG UG

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE

REVIEW AUTHORITY:

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SUBJECT: REGIONAL RWANDA/BURUNDI REFUGEE CONFERENCE  
REF: (A) 94 GENEVA 10498, (B) 94 ADDIS ABAB 9362,  
(C) 94 STATE 297649

1. DEPARTMENT IS VERY DISAPPOINTED THAT THE PREPARATORY MEETING FOR A REGIONAL REFUGEE CONFERENCE ON RWANDAN AND BURUNDI REFUGEES APPEARS TO HAVE SLIPPED FROM DECEMBER UNTIL EARLY JANUARY PER REFS A AND B. WE HAD BECOME INCREASINGLY CONCERNED THAT WITH JUST DAYS REMAINING BEFORE A MEETING WAS TO TAKE PLACE IN ADDIS -- VARIOUSLY DECEMBER 12 OR DECEMBER 15 -- THE SEVERAL CONVENORS (UNHCR, OAU, AND THE BURUNDI GOVERNMENT) APPEARED NOT TO HAVE AGREED ON A DATE OR VENUE OR SENT INVITATIONS TO THE PROSPECTIVE ATTENDEES. GIVEN THAT WE ARE INTERESTED IN AN ADEQUATELY-PLANNED, SERIOUSLY-ATTENDED, ACTION-ORIENTED CONFERENCE, WE CONCEDE THAT A MEETING SHOULD PROBABLY BE DELAYED UNTIL AFTER THE HOLIDAYS. INDEED, SOME POTENTIAL PARTICIPANTS WILL BE OCCUPIED WITH THE NEXT RWANDA OPERATIONAL SUPPORT GROUP (AKA FRIENDS OF RWANDA) MEETING IN NEW YORK DECEMBER 16.

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2. AT THE FIRST (NOVEMBER 22) FRIENDS OF RWANDA MEETING IN WASHINGTON, ALMOST ALL PARTICIPANTS AGREED THAT THE OAU PROPOSAL OF MARCH 1995 FOR A REGIONAL REFUGEE CONFERENCE WAS TOO LATE. (COMMENT. WE ARE DISAPPOINTED TO SEE PER REF A THAT THE OAU IS STICKING TO THIS TIMETABLE. END COMMENT.) IN ORDER TO KEEP UP THE MOMENTUM, WE HAD SUGGESTED A PREPARATORY CONFERENCE IN DECEMBER AND A PLENARY CONFERENCE IN JANUARY (BUT NO LATER THAN MARCH). WE ARE NOT NECESSARILY WEDDED TO THE IDEA OF SEQUENTIAL MEETINGS AND WOULD WELCOME A PLENARY WORKING CONFERENCE IN JANUARY IN BUJUMBURA EVEN WITHOUT A PREPARATORY CONFERENCE. WE BELIEVE THAT THE OUTCOME OF A REGIONAL CONFERENCE WILL BE SHAPED MUCH MORE BY THE POLITICAL WILL OF THE REGIONAL PARTICIPANTS THAN IT WILL BE BY THE QUALITY OF THE CONFERENCE ROOM PAPERS.

3. FOR ADDIS AND GENEVA: PLEASE CONVEY TO THE OAU AND UNHCR OUR DISAPPOINTMENT WITH THE CURRENT SLIPPAGE AND OUR FIRM EXPECTATION THAT THERE WILL BE SOME KIND OF REGIONAL GATHERING IN JANUARY (COORDINATED SO AS NOT TO CONFLICT WITH THE PLANNED UNDP ROUNDTABLE JANUARY 17-18 IN GENEVA).

4. FOR ADDIS: PLEASE STRESS TO THE OAU THAT MARCH IS

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MUCH TOO LATE A DATE FOR DEALING WITH THE EXPLOSIVE SITUATION IN CENTRAL AFRICA.

5. BUJUMBURA: PLEASE CONFIRM AS REQUESTED REF C THAT BURUNDI IS INDEED COMMITTED TO ADDRESSING THE BURUNDI REFUGEE SITUATION AS WELL.

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6. FOR KIGALI, BUJUMBURA, KINSHASA, KAMPALA, AND DAR ES SALAAM: PLEASE ADVISE AS TO CURRENT THINKING OF REGIONAL PLAYERS ABOUT THE CONFERENCE.

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